

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT

GAZETTE

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No. 288

**Government of Sikkim
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department
Krishi Bhawan, Deorali, Gangtok, Sikkim – 737102**

No. 43/AH&VS/2024-25

Date: 8/4/2024

NOTIFICATION

Read:

(1) D.O. No. R-24018/26/2023-DIR ANLM (E-25776) Dated 6/9/2023 and D. O. No. 2-4/2021-SD-III Dated 10.10.2023, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India regarding the mitigation plan to address the fodder shortage in the states and creation of Task Force in the state.

WHEREAS, in the pursuit of addressing the critical issue of fodder shortage within the state and to mitigate the same for the welfare of livestock and farmers, the Governor of Sikkim is hereby pleased to constitute the State and District Task Force. The main objective of the Task Force is to assess, strategize, and implement effective measures to mitigate the fodder shortage crisis within the state.

The composition of the State Task Force shall be as under:

1. Chairperson: Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim;
2. Co-Chair: Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department;
3. Member:
 - Secretary, Forest & Environment Department;
 - Secretary, Agriculture Department;
 - Secretary, Planning & Development Department;
 - Secretary-cum-Controller of Accounts, Finance Department;
 - Secretary, Rural Development Department;
 - Additional Director , Feed & Fodder, AH&VS Department;
 - Agricultural specialists to be nominated by the Agriculture Department;

- Agricultural specialists and Livestock experts of the Indian Council for Agriculture Research Centre/NOFRI;
- Dr. Phurba Lepcha, Joint Director, AH&VS Department;
- Veterinarians specializing in livestock nutrition- Dr. Rinchen Ongmu Bhutia, Dy. Director, AH&VS Department and Dr. Praveen Sharma, Veterinary Officer, AH&VS Department;

4. Member Secretary: Director, AH, AH &VS Department.

Functions:

1. To assess the current state of fodder availability and demand.
2. To identify factors contributing to fodder shortage, including climate change, land degradation, water scarcity, and socio-economic challenges.
3. To study and make recommendations for innovative fodder production techniques, such as hydroponics, silage making, and pasture management.
4. To develop training modules and recommend the agency on extension services to educate farmers on efficient fodder utilization and conservation methods.
5. Collaborating with the Indian Council of Agriculture Research or other research institutions to research fodder crops suitable for different regions and climates.
6. To recommend policy interventions and incentives to promote sustainable fodder production and management practices.
7. To advise the State Government in framing policy to prevent fodder scarcity in the state.
8. The Task Force shall suggest and formulate appropriate regulations or policies on matters about mitigating fodder scarcity in the state.
9. To advise the State Government on improvements of the pasture land development in Gaucharan and degraded forest lands.
10. To take all such steps as the Task Force may think fit to mitigate fodder scarcity in the state, including the budget provision.

Similarly, the District Task Force shall comprise of the following members:

1. Chairperson: Respective District Collector;
2. Member:
 - Respective District Head of Agriculture Department;
 - Respective District Head of Forest and Environment Department;
 - Respective District Head of Rural Development Department;
 - All Addl. Directors/Joint Directors of respective District under AH&VS Department;
3. Member Secretary- District Head (Additional/Joint Directors), AH&VS Department.

Functions:

1. To implement all such steps recommended by the State Task Force whenever necessary to do so and it shall work under the supervision and guidance of the State Task Force.
2. To submit a tangible report/recommendation to the State Task Force related to the fodder shortage and its mitigation plan.
3. To give necessary feedback, and coordination to the State Task Force.
4. To co-operate with, and coordinate with the farmers/SHG bodies to ensure that there is no fodder scarcity in the local area.
5. To impart education/extension activity in matters of seed production, fodder cultivation, fodder conservation, collect baseline data and other innovative fodder cultivation and conservation such as silage, TMR, etc.

Timeline:

Both the State and District Task Force will operate initially for two years, with the possibility of extension based on ongoing needs and progress.

Reporting:

Regular progress reports will be submitted to the Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim outlining achievements, challenges, and recommendations for further action.

By order and in the name of Governor of Sikkim.

**Dr.Sharman Rai,
Principal Director-cum-Secretary,
AH&VS Department.**

